

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD FOR TRANSMITTING LOOPBACK CELLS THROUGH  
A SWITCHING NODE OF AN ASYNCHRONOUS TRANSFER  
MODE (ATM) NETWORK

A method and system for transmitting a loopback cell within an ATM connection. The method comprises the steps of detecting in an input adapter whether or not an incoming ATM cell includes a loopback condition indicator. If so, specific routing labels are appended to the incoming ATM cell indicating that the incoming cell is a loopback cell to be looped back on the connection such that the switch engine of the switching node transfers the loopback cell to the same port of the input adapter utilizing the appended routing labels.